

Media Contact:

Paloma Perez

Paloma.Perez@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

**CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL HIGHLIGHTS FCC ACTIONS ON
HURRICANE SEASON PREPAREDNESS**

***Agency Co-Hosts Workshop in Puerto Rico to Improve Coordination Between
Communications and Energy Sectors***

WASHINGTON, June 13, 2023—Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel today detailed the agency’s actions in preparation for the 2023 hurricane season, including co-hosting a two-day stakeholder workshop beginning tomorrow in Caguas, Puerto Rico, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Energy, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Puerto Rico Governor’s Office, to improve coordination between the communications and energy sectors during disaster response and restoration.

“Last fall, after Hurricanes Ian and Fiona wreaked havoc on Florida and Puerto Rico, the Commission held a [hearing](#) to examine what worked to keep communications operational, what didn’t work, and what lessons can be applied to future disasters,” said Rosenworcel. “It was clear that more action is needed to improve coordination between the energy and communications sectors, and this week’s workshop will convene industry and government stakeholders to examine restoration challenges and identify solutions. During crises, the importance of staying connected takes on additional urgency—and the Commission will continue to do its part to improve communications reliability and resiliency for the public and first responders.”

The workshop is the latest in a series of recent Commission actions to bolster communications during hurricanes, wildfires, and other disasters. For example:

- Last year, the Commission launched a program to [share industry communications outage information](#) with first responders and other public safety personnel in state, federal, territorial, and Tribal nation agencies. This data can improve officials’ situational awareness during disasters, enhance their ability to respond more quickly to outages affecting their communities, and help save lives.
- The Commission modernized and streamlined its [rules](#) for priority service programs administered by the Department of Homeland Security, which help first responders, national security, and other emergency personnel communicate during disasters, when service may be degraded.
- The Commission adopted [rules](#) to make Emergency Alert System messages on television clearer and easier to understand, proposed rules to [bolster the security](#) of the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts, entered into an unprecedented partnership with state and local governments to test Wireless Emergency Alerts on the local level, and [proposed rules](#) to improve Wireless Emergency Alerts by making them available in more than a dozen languages, adding

increased functionality, and ensuring that participating wireless providers send the alerts in a reliable, accurate, and timely manner.

- The Commission [adopted rules](#) to improve wireless network resiliency during disasters.
- The Commission held hearings to examine lessons learned after the [2022 hurricane season](#) and the [2021 hurricane season](#), and Chairwoman Rosenworcel visited affected areas to speak with stakeholders and examine recovery efforts.
- The Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau has been meeting with industry stakeholders to discuss their preparations for this hurricane season and to identify any challenges.

###

Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).